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posure, one in July, one in November, and one in January; three from accidents and other diseases. No deaths occurred amongst the Europeans.

During the ten days of my residence on the island, in the months of May and June, the climate was exceedingly agreeable. The nights were cool, and no punkahs were necessary during the day. In fact, a refreshing sea-breeze was present at all times in every part of the island visited by me during the day, and a blanket was always grateful at night. The average of the thermometer at this period during the day is 75°, during the hot weather it is 88°; and Captain Fraser speaks in glowing terms of the climate at all seasons, as compared with that in Calcutta. Water of an excellent quality is procurable at a depth of 15 feet; and a perennial spring of sweet water flows through the centre of the island. The rainfall, Captain Fraser thinks, is under that experienced on the mainland opposite.

The great advantage of this island is its proximity to Madras and Calcutta, and to the principal stations in Burmah.

#### 5.—*Topographical Notes on Tunis.*

[“THIS paper appears to be a careful compilation of considerably more than a century ago. Some of the places described are correct, as far as the compiler goes, but many changes have occurred in the interim. His mention of mines requires verification, for it is difficult to pronounce what is authentic and what he gathered from itinerant Jews and others. There are evidences of the manuscript having been ransacked, but I do not remember having met it in print.”]—Vice-Admiral W. H. SMYTH, K.S.F., F.R.G.S., &c.]

*Biserta*, a large town about 50 miles north-west from Tunis, seated by the sea-side; about half a mile long, but narrow. The lake, on the banks whereof it is seated, discharges itself into the sea by the town walls, and forms the port. Towards the east is the island where the Christians formerly lived. The inhabitants are pretty numerous, and are for the most part of the race of the Andalusian Moors who were drove out of Spain. They have about this town very good arable land, which produces a great quantity of beans, chichorie, and sundry other sorts of grain, which is exported for Italy and France, except wheat and barley, that not being exported without a particular licence. They sow cotton and tobacco. The lake reaches up 30 miles in the country; and there is an ebb and flow every six hours, and at the full of the moon then it is more. In the year 1755 there was found an old-built well of very fine fresh spring-water; it was stopt up; it is in the market where they sell the wheat.

*Ras El Gibel*, a town of about 300 houses, 8 miles west from St. Farina, and about a mile from the sea. There are seven churches with steeples.

*Porto Farina* is a an unwall'd town of above 100 houses: a large lake is before it, at the end whereof is a very handsome large bason for holding the men-of-war and cruisers belonging to Tunis, it being the safest and best port belonging to the kingdom of Tunis. To the northward of the town is a salt-work. In 1739, when I was first there, there were two men-of-war—one of 50 guns, given by the Grand Signor in 1732, and the other of 50 guns, built by one Mr. Markham, an English builder, which has never been at sea yet, nor, I believe, never will. Near this place, about 1750, was discovered, by a Milanese, a quicksilver-mine, very good, but neglected by the Bey.

*El Alea*, a neat town seated on the top of a hill, whence its name (the high), is inhabited chiefly by Andalusian Moors, about 10 miles south-west from Porto Farina. It is at this place only where the thistles grow which are used by the capmakers at Tunis; they will thrive nowhere else, as has been tried.

*Solyman*, a small unwall'd town of about 200 houses, about 22 miles south-

east of Tunis, is seated on a plain a mile from the sea, inhabited chiefly by Andalus and Tripolines. Saffron also grows hereabouts.

*Hammam Leef*.—This is a famous hot-bath seated at the foot of a very high, steep, rocky hill. Here are two baths built, one for the men, and the other for the women : they go down three or four steps to them, and the water is up to their middle ; there is a bench of stone to sit on ; it is frequented chiefly for the cure of the French disease. The water of this bath is entirely sulphurous ; it is about 12 miles south-east of Tunis.

*Galipia*, a small town situated at about 15 miles south-east from Cape Bona, and about 2 miles from the sea-side. The castle stands on the top of a rocky hill close to the water-side, and is a very ancient building, and very difficult to go up.

*Zowwan*, a neat town of 450 houses, seated on a hill at the foot of a large hill, inhabited chiefly by Andalus, who are dyers and gardeners, there being a very good spring of fresh water, which comes out of the hill above the town, which serves both for dyeing and for their gardens. Where the head of the spring is, is the ruins of an old temple built over it ; it is round.

*Mesakin*, a small town of about 100 houses, inhabited chiefly by Sherifs, who won't allow neither Jew nor Christian to enter the town.

*El Jeridde*, a large tract of land lying on the borders of the Sahara or Desert and subject to Tunis. It is a sandy soil, and the only produce of it is dates, with which they drive a great trade with the Moors round about them ; besides, they make great quantities of fine barracans and fine burnouses of wool they get from the Emamma, a tribe of Moors who are near them, in exchange of their dates. The caravan that goes from South Barbary to Cairo every year calls at the Jeridde, both going and coming, and exchanges goods for dates. The people are yellow and thin, and have bad sight by reason of the heat of the sand. They reckon three days' journey from the Jeridde to Tuggurt. The water of the Jeridde is purgative to strangers for a while, till they are used to it. Madder is cultivated here ; and, upon a demand in Tunis, they carry it there from hence, it not turning to account, by reason of the land-carriage, unless very scarce and dear.

*Bahar Pharaon*, or the Sea of Pharaoh, is a kind of lake in the Jeridde ; some part water, but the most part sand, and in several places quicksands ; so that where the people passed over is marked with stumps of date-trees, otherwise there would be no finding the way.

*Tozer*, the chief town of the Jeridde. Here is a palace built for the Bey, where he commonly resides when he comes to the Jeridde. At this town the caravan that goes from South Barbary to Cairo and back again, calls here ; and the Codemsees pass here mostly.

*Nefta*, a town of the Jeridde, 15 miles south-west from Tozer. They have plantations of date-trees and springs of warm water.

*Sfax*, or Sfacus, is a handsome town, four-square, and walled round. The town is seated on a sandy plain about a stone's-throw from the sea. It is about a mile in circuit, and very populous. They make a great deal of linen cloth there. This place drives a great trade to Alexandria for flax and rice ; and ships off from thence (when the Bey gives leave) oil, olives, and soap for Alexandria, and wool for Christendom, and henna for Tunis.

*Sminjah* is a plain so called, famous for the defeat of Hassein Ben Allie by the Algerines in 1735, and afterwards for the defeat of Sidie Jonas about two months afterwards by Hassein Ben Allie. And in this plain are some quarries of black marble, pretty good.

*Mezezebe*, a neat town situated on a plain on the eastern bank of the river Mejerdah, inhabited chiefly by the Andalusians. At this place is a fine bridge over the river, built by Mahomet Bey. The river is very deep here, and as broad again as where the bridge is going to Porto Farina.

*Hammam Zreeba*, a hot-bath nine miles south from Zowwan. The water is impregnated with rock-alum and sulphur.

*Uselet*, a parcel of high mountains so called; they are about 18 miles square each way; and they reckon among these mountains about 6000 men inhabitants besides women and children. The mountains are craggy, and of very difficult access, being very narrow ways; but among the mountains they have valleys; and the caroub-tree is very plenty; and they keep a great many bees. They have several stone cisterns in the hollows of the mountains, which the rain fills and serves them for their drink. The people are very hardy, and very dextrous in handling small arms. I have been told by a Jew who used to travel in those parts selling trifles, that he had seen a great many stone statues in those mountains, dressed in a short dress, some with their heads off, others wanting their arms, defaced, I supposed, by the Arabs.

*Tabarca* is a small island near the borders of Algier, belonging formerly to Tunis, and afterwards to the family of Lomellini of Genoa, confirmed to them by a firman from the Grand Signor in 1740. There might be about 800 or 900 souls in the town, and 22 coral-boats thereto belonging. Facing the island is the ruins of the ancient Tagasta. The ruins of the town Tagasta are two miles in circuit; and there are three large magazines standing, and several sepulchres, which the Tabarkines broke down for the stones.

*Keph*, a strong town on the frontiers towards the Alger territories. The castle is a Roman structure. The climate here in winter time is very cold, and they have a good deal of snow-fall about the hills. Near this place is a very good copper-mine, and also an iron-mine, discovered in the old Bey's time. Near Chef are woods from whence they bring bark, which is used by the preparers of morocco-leather skins, and they also bring white galls from thence used by the said tanners.

*Gafsa*, a neat town a day's journey from the Jeridde. The houses are built of mud walls and palm-tree rafters. They make very fine burnouses and bar-racans here, and very fine worsted, of which the Turks, who are in garrison, make mahakas, which the women use to rub themselves with when they go to the bagnios; they put some of the inside of the date-tree under and sew the worsted over them. The wool they get from the Emama, a tribe of Moors not far from them. About a musket-shot from the town is a mountain called Gibel Gâtôre, from whence they supply the kingdom of Tunis with flints for the muskets and pistols.

*Jerba*, an island belonging to Tunis lying just on the borders of Tripolie, near 60 miles in circumference. The soil is sandy and produces great quantities of water-melons. The people are very industrious, and are mostly merchants, but have the character of being very sharp and also close-fisted, which has caused a proverb in this country: "Como un Jerbino" (like a Jerbin)—that is, miserly; and they are also reckoned one of the four of the greatest cheats, viz. a Jew, a Genoese, a Jerbin, and a Greek. They are mostly of a sect called Hamse.

*Gurbos*, a place about 12 miles to the northward of Soliman. Near the sea-shore at this place is a very hot bath: the water comes from the mountain above it, and is impregnated with alum; the water is so hot that it is hardly bearable. There are some ruins at this place.

*Susa*, a handsome walled town of about a mile in circuit, at about a stone's-throw from the sea-side, 15 miles south-east of Erkla. There are also several ruins about the town. The country round about is sandy, but produces great quantities of oil and olives. There is a great deal of linen cloth made here, being the best made in the kingdom. They have several wells of water: they are ancient, and built with large massy stones.

*Moraisah*, lying 6 miles north-east of Suliman, close by the sea-side. Here are very extensive ruins, and was formerly a city of some figure: they have

brought away a great many stones from hence, which have served to build the castles at the Goletta and other buildings in Tunis. There is a great deal of ruins to be seen under water in calm weather, particularly a large gateway standing upright.

*Sahul*, a part of the country so called which comprehends all the land near the sea-coast from Ergla to Sfax: it abounds with olive-plantations. They cultivate and make indigo. The Moors of the Neageas, of Uled Saïde, and Dreid have their quarters in these parts.

*Arad*, a large tract of land, part plain and part mountainous; called also the Little Jeridde. It joins to the Sahul and the Jeridde, and goes as far as the borders of Tripolie. They have plenty of date-plantations, though not so good as those of the Jeridde; and they cultivate the henna.

*Carthage* is now only a heap of ruins: all the remains are the large cisterns, which are 17 in number, adjoining close to each other; there is one of them divided into two parts, with a cupola on each end. On the southernmost side are nine, and on the other side seven. They are all of equal dimensions, and are as follows:—

The length from within the walls is 90 feet, and in breadth 18 feet 10 inches.

The breadth of the wall that divides the two cisterns 4 feet 10 inches.

The breadth of the passages within the walls 6 feet 8 inches.

The depth from the top of the arch to the wall that divides the cisterns is 10 feet 3 inches.

The breadth of the cupolas 20 feet.

The thickness of the wall on the top is 2 feet 8 inches.

I measured the depth of one cistern that had some water in it, and found it to be 26 feet.

At the end of these cisterns, on the north side, is a wall built that one can go no further on the east side. The Moors have dug a hole in the wall to find treasure, and it is said they found some; but on the terrace of the cisterns, and adjoining to them on the west part, is a cupola which I measured the depth of, and found it 28 feet. The top of the cupola is broke down; and about 12 feet down is a square hole, for what use I don't know. In each cistern are eight small earthen pipes on the top—I suppose for the admission of the water—about 3 inches diameter. The cisterns on the south side are falling to ruin, several being fallen in.

Near the sea-side, at the distance of about 20 feet, and not far from the cisterns, are several fragments of ruins on a rising ground; and I went underground in an opening, and found it was an arched place supported on large pillars built of stone, and that there were four ways going always cross and cross. I could not go in far by reason of the rubbish. I was told by one that he had heard that some Turks had been in there, and came to a large hall supported by marble pillars, and that they could go under ground a great way; but it is now so filled up with rubbish that one can go only a little way in. I was told by one who lived at the castle, built near the cisterns, that in digging to make a garden they found several tombs, of two long stones for the sides, and one for the head, and another for the feet; they were narrow, and covered with a red-like slate: there were bones in them, and some bones of a child; their heads were laid north-west.

Near the cisterns, a little to the northward, is a spring of water, which comes out in a valley from a large mountain. The water in winter is good, but in summer it is something brackish: it comes into a kind of stone trough. Some Moors have been in, and say it is very spacious. About half a mile nearer Tunis are another set of cisterns; they seem to be shorter and broader than the others. The Moors have inhabited them.

There are several cisterns all about the hills of Carthage, and sundry other ruins, but nothing that deserves to be taken notice of.

*Beeban*, a place so called, about 40 miles east of Jerba, is the last place belonging to Tunis towards the eastward.

*Nabal*, a large open town, seated at about a mile's distance from the sea in a sandy plain. Near this place, on a mountain called Gibel Shih, or the alum mountain, there is an alum-mine. They don't know how to work it clean; they have formerly tried, but found the expense exceed the gains.

*Ras Sem*, in the kingdom of Tripolie. I have been told by a Corsican renegade, who had been Bey of Derna, that he had twice seen that place, and that he had seen there petrified palm-trees and also olive-trees, and like people's knee-bones, which were turned like flint-stones; and that people going there on purpose seldom found it because, lying in the sandy desert, the land being blown by the wind covered that place, and at some times the wind would drive it away, when what he told me of might be seen.

*Gamuda*, a place where are the ruins of a large town seated on the side of a hill. There are no inhabitants here. This is one of the stations of the winter camp. They find the abebile (?) here, and nowhere else in the kingdom; they are found in a plain on the surface of the ground.

*Cairoan*, a very large town, the next in bigness to Tunis. This town was supposed to have been built by the first Arabs who came down and conquered this country, there being several of the chiefs buried there. They have a handsome large church wherein is hung up the armour of the Arab chiefs, as helmet, breastplate, &c., as used in those times. The people pay no head-money, it being esteemed a holy place, next to Mecca; and the Moors say, that in case the Christians should take Mecca, then this town would be visited by pilgrims instead of that place. They reckon in this town 4024 houses. The people are very industrious, and much given to trade. They are reckoned very honest and just, but very sharp in their dealings, looking after the smallest matter, which they won't lose.

*Jibbel Iskill*, or Gebel Iskill, is a large high mountain about 16 miles from Biserta. At the end of the lake it is full of wild hogs, being full of woods. Here is a hot-bath, frequented by the Moors, and several ancient ruins. In the summer time, when the water is low, they send cattle to graze, there being fine pasture. In winter time they go there by water.

*El Hamma de Tozer*, a large village about 6 miles distant from Tozer. Here is a hot-bath: the water is not very hot, but after bathing it causes an abundant sweat, and is good in many diseases, and much frequented by the Moors. The water here is very good and sweet—the best in the Jeridde, and serves to water the date-plantations, being a copious spring.

*Cheps*, a large town through which a river runs that divides it in two parts, but it is joined by an ordinary stone bridge. The port is in the river, but it is very dangerous. The water of the river is sweet, but very heavy and unwholesome to strangers. The chief of their trade consists in the henna, of which they have many plantations. The water ebbs and flows very much, and at low water they can see the ruins of a large town. Some miles distant is the ruins of the old town of Cheps.

*Gem*, a large village built about half a mile from the famous Amphitheatre. In the Amphitheatre is a hole, and the Moors say that there is a passage under ground that leads to Medea. A Jew told me he had been a long way in it; and several Moors told him they had been a great way in it.

*Toburba*, a small town seated on the western side of the Mejerdah, inhabited chiefly by Andaluses. There is a handsome bridge built by Mahomed Bey out of the ruins of an amphitheatre. Here is a batan for milling caps.

*Weyd el Erg* a river about 6 miles east of La Calla. It is supposed that formerly there has been a port here, there being a great deal of ruins dispersed all about this track. There are otters in this lake: the Moors eat them.

*Biserta*.—The lake of Biserta is in two parts joined together by a narrow

channel: that part towards Biserta is reckoned to be 25 Italian miles in circumference; the uppermost part is reckoned larger than the other; and within it, near the channel, is the fishery of Tingia.

*Truzza* is a very high mountain, and on the top of it is a large hole from whence ascend hot vapours, and it is used as a bagnio by laying wood over the hole, and a mat upon it, and the person lays down on it, being well wrapped up. Towards the foot of the mountain is a grotto; and some goats having gone in there, when they came out again their hair was turned yellow. Allie ordered people to go in, but they could find no end. At this place are woods of fir and pine.

*Gilma*.—Here are the ruins of a very large town built on the side of a hill. On the foot of it are several square towers, pretty high but narrow, covered on the top, and a door to go in; within each, on the floor, is a square stone about 4 feet high and as many square; and on the top is a round hole, about 6 inches diameter, which runs down into another larger; and within the tower, towards the top, are four figures cut out in gips, one on every side—one with a lance, another with bow and arrows, and such like arms.

Here is also a rivulet of fresh water.

In a large mountain, a day's journey on horseback from Tabarca, there is a lead-mine. They have ovens to melt and prepare it. They have several openings of the mine; but they don't take much care to melt it, being a good deal of dross mixed with it. It is a very large and plentiful mine, and is forbid to be worked but for the use of the Bey; but a great deal of it is sent in contraband to Bona in order to make their pots; and all the Arabs supply themselves here, also in contraband, with lead to make bullets; that for Bona is run to the sea-side, whence it is shipped on board the sandalls.

This is the road going to Tabarca, and is a very narrow and bad pass. The garrison of Tabarca have sometimes been set upon (in times of disturbance) here by the Moors.

A few miles from Bardo there is a copper-mine—very good ore; and not far from it is a silver-mine; and in the mountains above Tabarca is a silver-mine. Both these silver-mines were discovered in 1738 by a man who came here and gave himself out for a miner, and spoke several languages. I fancy he must have been a German renegado, though none knew what he was; and he tried the ore, and produced silver; but being accused of a design of running away, the Bey ordered him to be imprisoned, which he took so ill, that with a knife he had, he killed his servant, and then cut his throat.

The large copper-mine is beyond Chef, near the river Serat, on the Algier frontier. The mine is very rich.

At Spaitla is a copper-mine, and at Truzza is a silver-mine.

6.—*The Andaman Islands.* By REV. CHARLES PARISH, Chaplain,  
Bengal Service.

Communicated by SIR WILLIAM HOOKER, F.R.G.S.

Moulmein, Dec. 10, 1862.

MY DEAR SIR WILLIAM,—I have lately had an excursion to the Andamans, and, more interesting still, to Barren Island. Our new settlement at *Port Blair* in the southernmost of the three main islands, is at present not on the *mainland* (as we may well call the larger islands), but on three very small islets close to the mainland, in the bay or port. These are quite cleared, so hardly any botanising is to be done on them; and the mainland is not safe to visit without a guard of seamen, owing to the hostility of the natives. Moreover, when you visit it, you can yet do nothing more than skirt the shore, or, it may be, penetrate some 100 yards inland, as the country is one vast